May 3, 1976

Mr. Michael J. Rafalski
Engineering Department
Sprague Textron
3502 West Sample Street
South Bend, IN 46627

Dear Mr. Rafalski:

This responds to your letter of April 2, 1976, asking the basis for the selection of the wall thickness of a pipe nipple that is used as a safety vent on a weld patch manufactured by your company. This safety vent is used to conduct leaking gas away from the work area during installation of a weld patch on corrosion pits on gas transmission pipelines.

You correctly stated that the wall thickness of the weld patch would be required to meet the criteria of §192.717(c). The pipe nipple welded to this patch would be required to meet the other requirements of Part 192 and particularly those of Subpart C - Pipe Design, since the part in question is being utilized as pipe.

The Office of Pipeline Safety Operations does not endorse, approve, or disapprove proprietary items and for that reason cannot comment on the acceptability of your design. It is the responsibility of each gas pipeline operator to assure compliance with the requirements of Part 192 that are applicable to his system.

Thank you for your interest in pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

Cesar De Leon
Acting Director
Office if Pipeline
Safety Operations

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April 2, 1976

Department of Transportation
Office of Pipeline Safety
Washington, D.C. 20591

Attention Mr. Joseph Caldwell

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

Enclosed is a drawing of an experimental safety vent body, B/P #Experimental. The body is welded to a weld patch B/P #600-A to form the assembly called "The Safety Vent Patch." The assembly has been in use in the field for several years. We are presently considering a re-design of the body containing the safety vent. A question arose as to the necessary thickness of the wall of the body. Although the patch to which the body is now welded meets the requirements listed in Federal Regulations 192.717 Par C. We would like to know if the pipe thickness does apply to the wall of the body. Our interpretation is that the body is a branch connection coming off the welded patch, and as such would meet federal standards.

Please review the enclosed material and advise if this design is acceptable. We appreciate your reply as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Rafalski
Engineering Department

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April 23, 1976

Department of Transportation
Office of Pipeline Safety
Washington, D.C. 20591

Attention Mr. Joseph Caldwell

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

We are writing in reference to our correspondence dated 4/2/76, inquiring about the wall thickness of a safety vent body welded to a patch plate. The question was whether or not the body wall thickness meets existing federal standards.

We have not received a reply from your office on the original inquiry, so I am enclosing another set of prints for your inspection.

We would appreciate your reply as soon as possible as we are holding up a production run pending your reply.

Sincerely,

M. J. Rafalski
Engineering Department

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